

The Dickerson Log Cabin
(Thomas Dickerson House)
Between Denville and Mt. Tabor
Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-644

HAES
NJ
14-MOUNTAIN
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS
N.J.

14 MOUNTAIN

1-

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(Thomas Dickerson House)
Between Denville and Mt. Tabor
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Owners: Heirs of George W. Dickerson, decd.*

Dates of Erection: Log cabin unit in or before 1785;
frame unit added about 1820 (mantels older);
front shed later

Architect: Unknown

Builders: David Baker or Daniel Dickerson (1740-1826)
for son Thomas Dickerson (1763-1821) who
evidently added the two story frame annex

Present Condition: Decayed, unoccupied

Number of Stories: One and one-half and cellar in log
cabin unit; two and garret and cellar in
frame unit

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - hewn logs in earlier unit,
since covered with siding boards; timber
frame in later unit, clapboarded

Interior walls - boards in earlier unit;
frame partitions lathed and plastered
in later one

Chimneys - stone up to fireplace throat,
brick above, in earlier unit; all brick
in later one; both built into inside of
gable end walls

Roof - gable, wood shingled (Remains of
modern roofing paper applied over
shingles of earlier unit)

Historical Data:

The identity of the original owner of the
hewn log unit of this two-part house (which primitive

*Reside in modern house next to the one here surveyed.

construction is a unique survival in northern New Jersey) as also that of the subsequent owner for whom the two story frame annex was erected, is determined by search of the title to the property in the county records.

Daniel Dickerson^(a) of Hanover Township, Morris County, in his will dated 13 January 1826 and proved 21 April next, devised "my homestead farm consisting of 105 acres which I bought of Nicholas Commezaw," with two tracts of 3 and of 4 acres adjacent, "where I now live", also all his other real estate, to his sons Nathaniel and Daniel, to the children of his deceased son Thomas, viz. Daniel, William, John, Mahlon, Silas, Stephen, Chillion and Jane Dickerson, and to his daughters Phebe wife of Ephraim Hunt and Mary wife of William Roff, and to the children of his deceased daughter Rhoda wife of Stephen Moore.

By a deed not found on record in Morris County but which is recited in subsequent ones, this Daniel Dickerson had purchased from David Baker and wife Phebe of Morristown a 47 acre tract in Hanover Township.* The grantee sold to his son

(a) Daniel Dickerson, b. in or before 1740 (probably son of Thomas Dickerson of Southhold, L.I., who mar. 7 June 1737 Sarah Wager and removed to Morris Co., N.J., with bros. Daniel Joshua and Peter about 1745) d. 13 Mar. 1826 and was bur. at Rockaway, having mar. Phebe Genung and built a house (having stone inscribed D. D. 1760) since razed and site occupied by Denville Camp Meeting Assoc., Mt. Tabor, about a mile south of the house here surveyed. Daniel Dickerson is said to have owned "many hundred acres of adjoining lands" at one time. (J. Percy Crayon, Rockaway Records, 1902, pp. 217-225. T. F. Chambers, The Early Germans of N.J., 1895, pp. 328-330. W. W. Munsell & Co., Hist. of Morris Co. 1882, p. 356).

*In the part of Hanover Twp. which was set off later, in 1844, to form Rockaway Twp., and since then Denville Twp.

son Aaron Dickerson two tracts of 17 and 6 acres thereof lying on the east side of the road from Denville to Morristown, in Hanover Township, by deed of 20 December 1821, and the 24 acres balance, to his son Thomas Dickerson. The house here surveyed being located on the latter part of the tract, its erection and occupation is ascribed to this Thomas Dickerson^(b). He dying intestate in 1821, his real estate descended to his heirs, and he was succeeded in this house by his son William Dickerson as is evident from the following record.

By a deed of 12 April 1839, John Dickerson of Hanover Township and Abraham Van Duyne and wife Sarah of Pequannock Township, Morris County, children and heirs of William Dickerson^(b) late of said county, deceased, conveyed to (their uncle) Chileon Dickerson of Hanover for \$100 their two-thirds share in three tracts of land there, of which their said father died seized. The first tract is described as that "whereon the said William Dickerson lately lived and where he died, and is part of the same tract of lands which was conveyed by David Baker to Daniel Dickerson" (above cited) and its northwest corner as being "on the west side of the road leading from Denville to Morristown and near the house where the said William Dickerson lately lived," and as containing 24 acres most of which lay east of the road. The second and third

(b) Thomas Dickerson, b. 6 Sept. 1763, d. 21 July 1821 intestate before his father, Daniel Dickerson^(a), mar. 8 Jan. 1783 Sarah Hall who d. 16 June 1817, both bur. at Rockaway, dau. of Capt. Josiah Hall of Denville, and had issue: Josiah b. 27 Sept. 1783, d. 6 Feb. 1836; David rem. to Neb.; Mary 19 Nov. 1785, m. Barzittai Pierson, rem. to Ft. Henry, N.Y.; Nancy 25 Nov. 1787, m. Jacob Hiler of Denville; Abigail 7 Dec. 1789, d. 9 Aug. 1792; Daniel b. 12 Jan. 1793, d. 28 Jan. 1847; William b. 4 Jan. 1795 d. 28 Feb. 1837, m. Effie Slingerland and had John M. b. 10 Apr. 1818, d. 3 Feb. 1892 Denville and Sarah b. 27 May 1823, m. Abraham Van Duyne (grantors in the deed 1839 above cited); John b. 17 Feb. 1797, d. 21 Mar. 1861; Mahlon H. 9 Sept. 1799, unm.; Silas 20 Aug. 1801, d. 24 Jan. 1880 in West; Aaron 16 May 1803, d. 29 June 1824 unm.; Jane 10 Jan. 1805, m. Wm. S. Casterline, Stephen 24 Jan. 1807, d. 23 May 1889; and Chilion b. 27 Sept. 1809, the grantee in the deed above cited, and of whom further. (J. P. Crayon, supra)

tracts thereby conveyed are described as those which the executors of the will of Daniel Dickerson decd. conveyed to William Dickerson by deed of 31 October 1827, containing 8.16 acres, and 4.9 respectively.

We are informed by Mr. Frank Dickerson of Denville that his great grandfather, Thomas Dickerson abovesaid, was born about 1763 in the old house now standing (i.e. the log cabin part of the house here surveyed) son of Daniel Dickerson. This conflicts with the statement in note (a) that the last named lived in another house, at Mt. Tabor.

Chileon Dickerson(c) who thus came into possession of the house (here surveyed) of his late brother William and previously of their father Thomas Dickerson(b) occupied the same until his death, having devised all his property to his two sons, Thomas Edwin Dickerson and George W. Dickerson, the wife Margaret Jane to have the use of one-third thereof during lifetime, by his will dated 18 January 1879. The two sons divided the lands by mutual deeds of release of 13 April 1888, and George W. Dickerson thus acquired from his brother "all that portion of the homestead of the said Chileon Dickerson decd.", lying west of the new public road from Denville to Mt. Tabor, including "the homestead and farm buildings", also "all that portion of the said homestead farm adjoining the

(c) Chilion Dickerson, b. 27 Sept. 1809, d. 13 June 1882, bur. at Denville, mar. (1) 21 Feb. 1827 Anna Connett, mar. (2) Mrs. Margaret J. Jagers; children: Emily b. 21 June 1834, d. 8 Oct. 1838; Maria b. 15 Dec. 1837, d. 1 Apr. 1873, m. Wm. H. Williams of Butler, N.J.; Sarah Jane b. 28 July 1841, d. 31 Jan. 1867, m. Jas. McCormick, res. Neb.; Thos. Edwin b. 14 Feb. 1844, m. Hetty Smith; and Geo. Whitfield, b. 7 Sept. 1852, m. 19 Feb. 1873 Margt. Vanderhoof and had childn. Geo. C. b. 1 Oct. 1874, Frank b. 3 Jan. 1876, Carrie L. b. 14 June 1877, James 5 Aug. 1878, d. 17 July 1879. (Crayon, supra.)

above described" bounded north by the road from the homestead of said Chileon Dickerson decd. to William H. Dickerson laid out 15 February 1881, west by the new road from Denville to Mt. Tabor, south by lands of Nathaniel Dickerson decd., and east by those of Chileon Casterline and William H. Dickerson also lot no. 11.

George W. Dickerson died intestate on 3 November 1924, and his property devolved to his three children George C. Dickerson, Frank Dickerson of Denville, New Jersey, and Mrs. Louise Judson of Middletown, N.Y.

Bibliography:

Search of title in the land and Probate records of Morris County, New Jersey, by James P. Richards, Jr., H.A.B.S. abstractor

Lewis D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

True copy